

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 SSO-00 /024 W

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O 300918Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2458

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

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FOR NELSON (OES) FROM GREEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP/OTRA (GREEN, MARSHALL)

SUBJECT: MANILA INTERVIEW

REFS: A STATE 22395 B MANILA 1486 C MANILA 1484

D MEXICO 1175 E MEXICO 1230

1. AP STORY BASED ON INTERVIEW GIVEN IN MANILA TO ZEITLIN AT SUGGESTION USIS MANILA. ZEITLIN STORY IS DISTORTED AND FURTHER MISCONSTRUED BY MEXICAN PRESS. PRINCIPAL DISTORTION IS ABSENCE OF MANY FAVORABLE THINGS I SAID ABOUT WHAT MEXICO AND OTHER COUNTRIES ARE DOING IN TERMS OF DEVELOPING THEIR OWN PROGRAMS AND THE MAJOR STEP FORWARD TAKEN AT BUCHAREST CONFERENCE. ZEITLIN PRESSED ME WITH REGARD TO INDIA'S TALK ABOUT ENFORCED STERILIZATION. I REFUSED TO DISCUSS INDIA'S PLANS, ABOUT WHICH I AM IGNORANT, BUT I DID MAKE GENERAL OBSERVATION THAT I SUPPORTED VOLUNTARY STERILIZATION AND HOPED IT WOULD NEVER COME TO STAGE THAT WOULD REQUIRE INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION.

2. I SPELLED OUT AT SOME LENGTH TO ZEITLIN THE WIDE RANGE OF DANGERS WORLDWIDE POSED BY EXCESSIVE POPULATION GROWTHS: FOOD SHORTAGES, UNEMPLOYMENT, ENVIRONMENT DETERIORATION, SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC CONSEQUENCES, INCLUDING GENERAL OBSERVATION THAT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS RECOGNIZED AS A MAJOR DANGER TO THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NIZED AS A MAJOR DANGER TO THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN A

CROWDED, ECONOMICALLY DESPERATE WORLD. I HAVE ALWAYS AVOIDED ANY REFERENCE TO PARTICULAR COUNTRIES IN THAT REGARD AND INDEED HAVE NEVER ASSOCIATED MEXICO, EVEN IN THE BACK OF MIND, WITH THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION.

3. SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY MEXICO CLARIFY THESE POINTS WITH MOYA PALENCIA AND OTHERS. EMBASSY MEXICO MAY WISH TO RELEASE STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT I HAD BEEN REACHED IN JAKARTA FOR COMMENT ON AP STORY AND THAT I STRONGLY DENY THOSE ASPECTS THAT IMPLY CRITICISM OF MEXICO'S POPULATION POLICY AND PROGRAM. ON CONTRARY, I REGARD MEXICO AS A COUNTRY THAT IS NOW ADDRESSING POPULATION PROBLEM REALISTICALLY AND HUMANELY. ALL COUNTRIES HVE A MUTUAL CONCERN IN THE SUCCESS OF THEIR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS, PROBLEMS THAT WE HAVE IN OUR OWN COUNTRY AS WELL. I WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED BY WHAT I SAW AND HEARD IN MEXICO WITH REGARD TO ITS PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS AS WELL AS ITS EFFORTS TO DELIVER WIDELY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY INTEGRATED HEALTH, NUTRITION AND FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. I ALSO APPRECIATED THE MANY COURTESIES EXTENDED TO ME BY THE OFFICIALS, DOCTORS AND OTHERS I MET DURING MY ONE-WEEK VISIT TO MEXICO SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POPULATION GROWTH RATE, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JAKART01364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760035-1158
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976016/aaaaaeef.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <17 MAY 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MANILA INTERVIEW
TAGS: SPOP, OTRA, MX, ID, US, (GREEN, MARSHALL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006